

## Business and Education Working Together

**T**he Arizona Business Education Advisory Council (ABEAC) is comprised of individuals from the business community, educators and students. The ABEAC was established with the purpose of serving as a link between business/industry and education. The ABEAC provides advice and support to secondary and post secondary Arizona Business Education programs through the Arizona Department of Education. Employability skills, employment demands, and instructional program relevance are just a few areas ABEAC members address. The ABEAC conducts five meetings during the year – September, November, January, March and May. Companies represented on the council include Arizona Small Business Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Price Waterhouse Cooper LLP, DeVry University, Insight Enterprises, Shamrock Foods, to name just a few.

Activities in which the Council focuses their efforts vary each year; however, the goals of the Council are generally aligned with the goals of Business Education. Past activities in which the ABEAC has been involved include:

⇒ Support for Future Business Leaders of Arizona/Phi Beta Lambda chapters and student members by conducting workshops, mentoring students in business career planning and judging students in business skill competitions.

*The Council serves as a link between business/industry and education. "*

⇒ Participate with business educators on curriculum design and technical skill certification teams to identify essential occupational competencies and validate outcomes.

- ⇒ Provide financial support for student academic and travel scholarships.
- ⇒ Provide input on the content and implementation of the Business Education long-range plan, including employment demands.
- ⇒ Advocate for legislative issues that pertain to education, specifically Business Education.
- ⇒ Provide externship opportunities for business teachers to ensure their knowledge of business trends and practices is current.

Recently, the ABEAC has developed a program, which may be presented to business groups, professional organizations and associations to inform people about the Council and Business Education.

In today's rapidly growing and changing economy, finding skilled workers is more challenging than ever. Business Education students enrolled in secondary and post secondary instructional programs learn to use relevant technologies necessary to

succeed in today's workforce. With business having direct input through the ABEAC to the Business Education program, the future workforce will be better prepared as workers and responsible consumers.

*"Business Education prepares students to succeed in today's workforce."*

We suggest you attend a meeting as a guest to view firsthand whether you would like to represent your organization as a member of the Arizona Business Education Advisory Council. To attend a meeting, contact either co-chair Dr. Janet M. Gandy, State Supervisor for Business Education, Arizona Department of Education, at (602) 542-5046 or co-chair Sandi Terry, Senior Manager of Financial Operations, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, at (602) 864-5312.

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*Become a link in the*  
*Business Education*  
*business/industry/*  
*education chain.*





***BUSINESS  
EDUCATION  
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Arizona Department of Education  
Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

# ***The Arizona Business Education Advisory Council***

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